



# Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

*There is history in all lives.*

Volume 5, Issue 1

February 1996

## CELEBRATING OUR 30TH YEAR, 1966-1996

*This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society.  
Those thirty years have seen dramatic change in Suffolk and in our society.*

In 1966 Suffolk was a two square mile city within the County of Nansemond. Demolition of old buildings to erect new ones was called progress. That kind of progress was rampant. (A case in point would be that wonderful old City Market which was roughly where Penney's and Woolworth's stood - those two buildings are already gone.) There was no historic district and there were no museums.

The Historical Society had a small group of good, hardworking people and very limited funds. One of the first projects of the Society was the research for and publishing of a brochure entitled "A Walk Down Main Street". We still use that brochure today although several of the buildings have fallen to 1960's style progress. How prophetic that one of our first focuses was Main Street.

Over time, of course, things have changed. The City of Suffolk merged with the City (former County) of Nansemond. The city has designated several historic districts including one on Main Street.

As for the Society, our membership has grown and so have our finances. The Candlelight Tour was initiated in 1977 to increase knowledge of and interest in historic places all over the new city. Thanks largely to the efforts of our historian, we've produced numerous publications about the City and the old County. We have, in the past year, formed a separate property company within the Society and are negotiating our first purchase. Fortunately, we are able to pay our rent at Riddick's Folly - a wonderful change from our earliest days.

The names and faces of active members have changed over the years. But one has remained constant. One officer in our group has held the same position for all these thirty years. Because of her steadfastness and her years of loving labor on our behalf, we dedicate this thirtieth anniversary letter to our historian, Marion Joyner Watson.

Marion is suffering from a grave illness now and is in Richmond with her daughter, so rather than honor her in person, we present our tribute to her in this letter. We asked our first two presidents to recall the early days of our organization. Marion was such an important part of the whole thing from the start. And her history work wasn't limited to SNHS; her work in recording and preserving the history of the whole area has extended to many other organizations.

### A TRIBUTE TO MARION

*Take a moment to read these messages from SNHS past presidents and friends of Marion.*

**PETE FICARE**

PAST MASTER SUFFOLK MASONIC LODGE #30

Mrs. Watson labored for five years to research, write and publish a historical record of the two hundred years of Suffolk Masonic Lodge #30 and its members. To me, this was a formidable task; to Mrs. Watson, it was a labor of love. She did not do this for recognition or profit but for the enjoyment of being able to preserve a portion of our past for future generations.

### THE REV. VANCE MANN, RECTOR

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be forever indebted to Marion Watson for her two years of work in gathering, organizing and preserving the historical documents of this parish. In just a very short time, many of these documents would have been scattered or destroyed and lost forever. Through her efforts and dedication, future generations of Christians now will have access to the past traditions and contributions of St. Paul's Church and will be able to glean from the past guidance and inspiration in carrying out the mission and ministry of Christ.

Marion has instilled in parishioners a new appreciation and excitement for this parish and for Christ's work here. She has truly distinguished herself as one of God's faithful servants!

### RANDY TURNER

COMMANDER TOM SMITH CAMP #1702  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Marion Joyner Watson's contributions will long be remembered and will provide future generations with an open window to the past that otherwise would have been closed. We all owe her a huge debt of thanks for the work she has so unselfishly done.

My what a difference thirty years make! Some differences are good; some are bad. However, it is extremely good to be here and see which are which.

When our Historical Society was started there was not, and never had been, one in Suffolk or in Nansemond County. We had from time to time some local historians who did their very best to help preserve our history, but there was no organized effort to do so; and there was no place to keep the information that was acquired. There were few days that something did not occur that was a part of the history of this area or that would become a part of it, but it was being lost to future historians. A small group of us began to talk about the need for a historical society that would meet our needs. Each of us had been aware of it for several years, perhaps even longer, but no one would take the initiative or had the time to do anything about it. After thirty years, it is dangerous to rely upon one's memory to record all the details or the names of those who united in the original organization for fear of omitting someone who should have been included. However, we must mention two who were the leaders in getting something started: Dr. Reginald Holland and Marion Joyner Watson. Without these two, it is doubtful that there would have been a Historical Society for Nansemond and Suffolk in 1965. This writer was most interested but at that time was limited in what time he could give because he was Commonwealth's Attorney for Nansemond County and was also busily engaged in private law practice as the Commonwealth's Attorney job was a full time job with part time pay. We finally got together a small group of dedicated historians and met in the Suffolk Municipal building. We made organization plans and provided for the election of officers. The writer was requested to prepare by-laws and obtain a charter. The proposals were brought back to the group and after discussion were approved. The charter was obtained and the Society came into being.

The first few years were fairly rough going. A few had to do all the work. Marion Watson was one of these and continued throughout these thirty years. Some got discouraged, but not Marion. If she was ever discouraged, she didn't let anyone know it and worked the harder. Robert Hardy, who was working for the Suffolk News Herald at the time, was also one who helped tremendously in getting our society going. Very soon, some of the history buffs of the War of the Northern Invasion found a group within the Society and gave us a great boost. They have continued to do this. The Society is indebted to them. We had encouragement and guidance from the Southampton Historical Society and the Chesapeake and Norfolk Historical Societies - without help of this kind, we would have had greater difficulties in formation and continuance.

The Society now seems to be firmly entrenched in the life of the merged City of Suffolk. Its need is recognized among the leaders of the city and is destined to play an important part in the preservation of our past, current and future history. It is appropriate that we express our gratitude for this to Marion Watson who has done so much toward making this possible.

WILLIAM WELLINGTON JONES:

Has it really been thirty years since Robert Hardy proposed a meeting for citizens interested in forming a historical society? A small group made an appearance and from that shaky beginning, we today have a viable, enthusiastic society. Of course, Marion Joyner Watson was a participant from the beginning.



The early years were all "uphill". Attendance was small and our budget even smaller. We had rented a room in the Jones Building in which we held our Board meetings and stored items that had been given to the Society. We eventually had to turn in the key for we could not pay the \$50.00 monthly rent.

Our Marion was always optimistic. If you wanted a job done well, ask her. We tried repeatedly to place her name on the slate as President but she would not accept. "Just let me continue what I enjoy".

When Riddick's Folly was placed on the market for sale, we pounded the pavement and knocked on doors soliciting volunteers to man a drive to "Save Riddick's Folly". At that time there were rumors of it being purchased for a commercial venture. Marion, having lived in Suffolk and knowing everyone, was in the forefront calling on citizens to help. We were unsuccessful then, but perhaps the seed she helped plant is why Riddick's Folly is here today.

We were most successful in presenting an "Antiques Fair" at the Elks Lodge one weekend. The citizens of Suffolk and Nansemond County were asked to loan whatever they owned relative to history. Marion called and urged families to loan their possessions. Members collected the items and what a wonderful display! Some of the items were priceless - family portraits in oil and photographs, coats of arms, land grants from the King of England, family crest, letters, newspaper articles, old books, silver items, etc. It really was amazing what was loaned. Some of the male members did an outstanding display of antique firearms. This was a wonderful addition to the Fair.

Another interesting event was a visitor from the Historical Society of Virginia. His visit took about three days and his aim was to find as many buildings as possible that had been in the W.P.A. listing made in the late 1920's. Marion and I traipsed with him through farms, woods and villages/towns looking for the buildings. Sadly, so many had disappeared. But, at least, there was a record made of what was still in existence at that time.

Behind every successful organization there is someone who gives their support 110%. Such is our Marion. The Greeks have a word that describes her perfectly. A XI OS - Worthy beyond comparison.

ANGELINA K. PRATT ELLIS:

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the Historical Society and to Marion Watson for keeping history alive in Suffolk for the past thirty years. She has been the light and driving force behind our Society. Working quietly in the background, often with her cohort, Andy Maxey, Marion has stockpiled more Suffolk history than most of us can imagine. She has been the guardian of our past and we will be forever grateful and in awe of her dedication to this cause and of her ability to accomplish so much. Thank you Marion for lighting our way. My hope is that we will follow your path and with your help continue the good work.

During 1995 our membership increased and we welcome each of you and hope that you will enjoy and take part in our different activities.

The last year was a busy one. In April we had a delightful bus trip to the James River Plantations. Sunshine prevailed as we enjoyed beautiful historic houses and gardens, a delicious lunch and delectable treats served by the hospitality committee. This committee, **Sue Burton, Barbara Carter, Joyce Saecker and Lillian Stroud** did a fine job last year making our trip and dinner meetings special and enjoyable.

May 13th, Save Our Station Day, offered an opportunity for several hundred people to celebrate National Historic Preservation Week and visit the station. This event was made possible because so many donated their time, talents and resources. During this week, the Prentis House fence was painted. What a great transformation! Profit realized from sales was around \$3,400.00. Who made it happen:

Dana Adams  
High School Art Departments  
Virginia Chambers  
Fine Arts Center  
Johnny Leggett  
Allen Hines  
Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Wirt  
Robin Welch  
Bob Chisom  
Linda Doland  
Robert Nelms  
Mary Lawrence Harrell  
Suffolk Iron Works  
Sylvia Pond & the Peanut Cookers  
Patsy and Dewey Privott  
Doug Naismith  
Andy Damiani  
Tal Carey  
Casey Holtzinger  
James and Becky Bradshaw  
Gail Saunders  
Lynn Rose  
Jim Caton  
Mike's Trainland

Pat and Dave Synder  
Lynette Brugeman  
Elizabeth and Jim Gordon  
Tom Brothers  
Alvis Winslow  
Marion Watson  
Jimmy Spain  
Mark Dignard  
Harry Cross  
Norfolk Welders Supply  
City of Suffolk  
Sue and Tom Woodward  
Barbara McPhail  
Mary Darden  
Baker Funeral Home  
Hill Funeral Home  
General Rentals  
Birdsong Peanut Company  
Parker Peanut Company  
Pond Peanut Company  
Tidewater Blanching  
Many other friends & members  
of the historical society  
Thank You!!!

On May 15th the City of Suffolk Planning Department invited our Society to help sponsor work sessions to formulate long-range plans for historic preservation for the entire city. Two meetings were held with good attendance and big concerns. The City will use the results as a guideline. Sue Woodward and I meet with different City officials on a regular basis and find them to be extremely concerned and helpful.

Last spring Sue and I visited New Bern, North Carolina and met with several people in charge of their Historical and Preservation Societies. Bob Chisom joined us one day and we met with the Main Street Director. New Bern is a perfect example of what can happen when a town gets serious about restoration. Following that visit, we set up a dinner meeting with **Ben Parish and Newsome Williams** at Riddick's Folly on June 12. These men had just purchased house number thirteen to renovate themselves. The Preservation Society has restored over forty houses. These gentlemen thought the houses on Main Street were wonderful! Thanks again to the Hospitality Committee.

Our fall meeting became bogged down in tour plans and never resurfaced. But - what a tour! Having perfect weather as a background, Main Street greeted more than six hundred and sixty guest and received rave reviews. The historic homes, churches, station, hotel ballroom and even the old boarded up houses proudly welcomed our visitors with candlelight, handsome Christmas decorations, music and Suffolk people on a mission - Celebrating Main Street. Tour proceeds exceeded \$8,300.00!

Sincere thanks to: The **Elmore, Trump and Woodward** families for opening their beautiful homes. **First Baptist, Main Street Methodist, St. Paul's Episcopal and Suffolk Christian** for sharing their histories and buildings. **Suffolk Christian** for providing the Van Valkenburg House for our Gift Shop. The **Youngs** for opening Young Properties, **Riddick's Folly** for opening the house and providing desserts. **Eleven Main Street businesses** for sponsoring the brochure. **Pretlow, Eason and Pretlow** for tour tickets. **Jack Brantley** and the **Linden Avenue Civic Association** for everything at the Station. **Vonnie Foremen** and the **Suffolk Garden Clubs** for door decorations. **Pat and Dave Snyder** for being in charge of the **Holiday House** and all the vendors and decorators working there. House chairmen: **Lynette Park, Sue Woodward, Sue Burton, Debbie Chappell, Sandra Birdsong and Lynne Cross**. Decorating Chairmen: **Nita Bagnell, Jane Moore, Dana Adams, Lee King, Georgellen Monette, Alvis Winslow, Mary Lawrence Harrell, Pat Branche, Diane Nelms, Sandy Hart, Melissa Odom and Marilyn Stulb** for decorating demonstrations at the Holiday House. **Mary Darden and Barbara McPhail**, co-chairmen publicity. **Lynn Rose** ticket chairman. **Linda Consolvo**, costume chairman. **Kermit Hobbs**, parking and signs. **Gary Butler and Jim Lawhon** for providing Confederate troops and ladies. **Main Street Charactars**. **Tom Brothers and Bill Powell** for making and placing street lanterns. Peanut Booth Chairmen, **Miriam Birdsong, Beth Canaday, Anne Cabell Wentz and Annette Bailey**. **Alexandra DuBois and Missy Walker** for playing the violin and harp and **Jack Lyle**, the bagpiper. **Salvation Army Band**. **Lynette W. Brugeman**, brochure layout. **Mike Matovich, Suffolk Cable; Capt. W. A. Freeman, Suffolk Police Department; Tommy Hines, Public Works Department; Sid Thomas, woodworking**. To every special person I failed to mention, Thank You!!!

Here's to an exciting and productive 1996.

*Betsy W. Brothers* 3

## OFFICERS 1994-96

President

Betsy Brothers  
539-6312

Vice-President

Sue Woodward

Past President

Jim Moore

Corresponding Secretary  
Connie Happle

Recording Secretary  
Jean Bell

Treasurer  
Dorothy Williams

Historian  
Marion Watson

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership  
Mary Lawrence Harrell

Publications  
Marion Watson

Newsletter  
Sue Woodward

Christmas Candlelight Tour

Costumes  
Linda Consolvo

Hospitality  
Sue Burton  
Barbara Carter  
Joyce Saecker  
Lillian Stroud

## THREE DECADES OF PRESIDENTS

William Wellington Jones  
Angelina K. Pratt (Ellis)  
Robert Hardy  
Kermit Hobbs  
Anderson Maxey, Jr.  
Susan F. Woodward  
Joseph Barlow  
Ann H. Burton  
Thomas O'Connor, Jr.  
James A. Moore  
Elizabeth W. Brothers



ing up the inside. We hope to do this with volunteers. I can't wait, can you.

Preparing this grant was an arduous task. **Jim Caton** worked up a new cost analysis, **Bob Chisom (DSA)**, **Mark Woodward (City)** and their staff did an impressive job. **Robert Nelms** and the **City of Suffolk** tended to the political needs. All of our representatives, state and national, wrote strong letters of support. Governor Godwin helped as always. Suffolk is indebted to each of you.

The hard part will be waiting until May for the results but we can begin the cleanup.

*This is a letter I wrote to be included with the grant proposal. I hope it will be informative for you as well.*

Mr. Robert O. Cassada, State Administrator  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Cassada:

In January of 1995 the Downtown Suffolk Association applied for a grant under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. This grant was to fund the restoration of Suffolk's beloved and historic Main Street Train Station in the heart of downtown. We were not fortunate enough to receive the funding but the commitment, enthusiasm and work towards this cause has never waned. It has indeed increased and multiplied. People constantly question our organization about what is happening with the station.

Last July the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society, which is a 501 (C-3) organization, formed the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society Property Company, a 501(C-2) tax exempt organization. Our group has raised over \$20,000 towards our private funding goal of \$30,000. Several local trusts have offered help and will be contacted when we determine the amount needed for this project. The City of Suffolk has agreed to supply the other \$30,000 toward the local match.

Negotiations are near completion between CSX and our group. The Downtown Suffolk Association and City of Suffolk have been very involved in this project.

The station property is greatly improved because of an intense clean-up effort. Clubs, students, interested citizens and city staff have joined together with the Save Our Station Committee in doing this work. Concerned residents have donated their expertise to figure restoration cost, survey the property and tend to our legal needs. Untold hours of work, mental and physical, have gone into this project because it is of great importance to our town.

Please review our request with careful consideration. If you decide we are worthy of these funds, I know that when we complete our job, you'll feel that you chose wisely.

Sincerely,

Betsy W. Brothers  
President

On January 31, 1996, Bob Chisom delivered the ISTEA grant to Richmond. Our request is for \$300,000 with the city and the S.O.S. Campaign providing \$30,000 each as required by the grant. This federal grant is managed through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). There are many restoration concerns that need immediate attention and we felt it was wise to apply once again for the station renovation. In the meantime, as soon as we acquire ownership, we can start the process of cleaning up the inside. We hope to do this with volunteers. I can't wait, can you.

## MAIN STREET R & R (RESTORATION AND REUSE)

On March 18, 1996, this new committee will meet at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7:00 in the evening. Coffee and dessert will be served. The purpose of this meeting will be to inform Historical Society Members and other interested parties of the possibilities for improvements to be made on North Main Street.

We will be showing slides of endangered properties and giving information on which houses are for sale and which ones may become available in the future. Euell Williams has prepared a most interesting group of slides. Betsy Brothers, Sue Woodward, Mary Darden and Barbara McPhail have met with several bankers, a C.P.A., a lawyer, and City officials in order to obtain information to pass on to you. We hope to give as much information as possible on financing, tax credits and the city's commitment to improvement.

This is the meeting that you have been waiting for. It is an exciting prospect to think of saving what is left of the old places on North Main Street. It is also important to note that this is just the beginning. There are many other places and neighborhoods that need our attention. We hope that you will begin to see that where there is a will, there is a way. The enthusiasm is catching and the time is now. Catch the R&R Fever and please join us on **March 18**.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Barbara Norfleet McPhail, Chairman

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

These two gentlemen serve of the **Commonwealth Transportation Board** and will be deciding which grant requests are rewarded. If you know either of them, please let us know and also talk to them about the Main Street's Station project and how important it is for our town.

William W. Prettyman, Suffolk District  
W. W. Prettyman Real Estate  
2809 S. Lynnhaven Road, Suite 110  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452  
(804) 486-5444 FAX (804) 486-5224

Max B. Porter  
At-Large Rural  
P.O. Box 511  
Boykins, Virginia 23827  
(804) 654-6430 FAX (804) 654-6430

Delegate Richard Cranwell is the patron for **House Bill #1453** to establish a 25% state rehabilitation tax credit for preservation in Virginia. The bill applies to both residential and commercial historic properties. Please call and speak in favor of this bill.

Just call 1-800-889-0229. Call as soon as possible, it could help our cause in Suffolk. They will report the calls to Delegate Nelms and Senator Holland.

### THE LIVING HISTORY

The Living History programs at Riddick's Folly are worth your time. Most are on Sunday afternoons and most are presented by Living History Associates. Marcel Riddick, however, who performs on February 25, is a Suffolk native and daughter of the late Moses Riddick. She is now an interpreter for Colonial Williamsburg. At the Folly, she will portray a slave who lived at the Folly. All these programs are made possible by the Suffolk Fine Art Commission. Call Riddick's Folly 934-1390 for information. And mothers, take your history students!

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND DINNER

Once again this year we will hold our annual business meeting in conjunction with the wildly popular annual covered dish supper. This year's meeting will be held on **Monday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Riddick's Folly**, 510 North Main Street. We will meet on the main floor in the double parlors. We will vote on the new by-laws and charter and elect a new board. Please come and enjoy good food, good company and we promise an exciting report about the station and Main Street.

We ask that you bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Also, please call Betsy (539-6312) or Sue (539-3055) to RSVP so we'll know how many places to set.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY 24

*Lafayette comes to town, 7:00 p.m.*

#### FEBRUARY 25

*Living history  
Riddick's Folly  
Marcel Riddick 2:00 p.m.*

#### MARCH 2

*Yesterday and Today  
Fashion Show*

*Modern Apparel by local  
merchants. Vintage  
clothing by SNHS. Call  
Riddick's Folly for  
information or  
reservations.*

#### MARCH 3

*Living History at Riddick's  
Folly 1-4 p.m.*

#### MARCH 11

*SNHS Annual Meeting at  
Riddick's Folly 6:30 p.m.*

#### MARCH 17

*Living History at Riddick's  
Folly, 2:00 p.m.*

#### MARCH 18

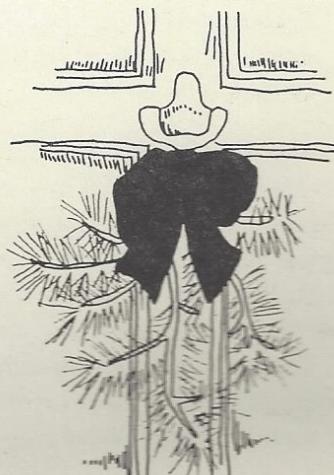
*Main Street R & R Meeting  
7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church.*

#### OCTOBER 14

*SNHS Fall Meeting*

#### DECEMBER 7 & 8

*Suffolk's 20th Annual  
Candlelight Tour*



In 1777, when he was not quite twenty years old, Marie-Joseph-Paul-Roch-Gilbert de Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, came from France to offer his life and a goodly portion of his personal fortune to the American colonies engaged as they were in their struggle for freedom. James Andrew Riddick, a resident of Suffolk in 1825 would later write, "To him, perhaps, more than any other human being were the American colonies indebted for their success in the Revolutionary War." Some considered him as much a founding father as Washington and Jefferson. He served as an aide to General Washington and became like the son Washington never had.

Lafayette financed his own ship to come here and join the fight and was commissioned as a Major General without pay. He helped the colonies acquire France as an ally. He was wounded at Brandywine and was at Yorktown for the surrender.

In love with Liberty, he returned to his homeland after the War only to become involved in the French Revolution in 1789. He lost much of his fortune as a result of that conflict. Years later when the American Congress invited him to come back to help celebrate fifty years of Freedom, he was living in greatly reduced circumstances. He declined the offer of an American warship to transport him here but sold some cows and borrowed the rest of the money to pay his own way on a packet.

The Marquie de Lafayette arrived in New York on August 16, 1824 to a "thunderous reception". According to one source, "The next thirteen months saw a celebration far exceeding anything the country had experienced. Cities vied with each other to entertain the renowned visitor". Household articles were produced bearing his likeness. Thirteen arches were built in Philadelphia for his parade. Portraits of him were done by famous artist as well as by the not so famous ones. A college was named for him.

One writer describes a reception in his honor in New York, "Mothers of families surrounded him, presenting their children for whom they requested his benediction...Old and feeble men seemed to become reanimated while conversing with him of numerous battles they had fought with him". He had an uncanny and very flattering gift for remembering names and faces of those with whom he had served. He visited all twenty-four states and all the major cities and he came to Suffolk.

Late in February of 1825, the town of Suffolk received word that the Marquis was coming here. On February 25, a group of prominent citizens traveled to Tony Pugh's tavern (near present day Driver) to meet our honored guest as he made his journey from Portsmouth. That group escorted him in to town. He was met at the head of Main Street by the town militia and citizens followed him en masse to the Castle Inn where he would spend the night. (That inn was approximately where Hubert Young's law office is today). He immediately took his place at the door and shook the hand of every person who wanted to meet him.

That night a grand banquet was held at the courthouse. It was attended by eighty people and presided over by Mills Riddick (twelve years later he would build Riddick's Folly). James Holladay, great-great-uncle of Dr. Beverly Holladay, prepared the "splendid dinner" and the address was given by Joseph Prentis, ancestor of Judge James C. Godwin. Thirteen toast were drunk that night. Lafayette himself made a toast "to the citizens of Suffolk and Nansemond County. May they forever enjoy all the blessings of Republican institutions and prosperous industry". After the banquet the party adjourned to Castle Inn where the ladies were received until eleven o'clock.

The next morning the General left Suffolk accompanied by a number of gentlemen on carriages and horseback. They went to Somerton in old Nansemond county where they were served a fine meal prepared by Washington Smith, the innkeeper. (The inn still stands in Somerton and is the home of Mrs. Mary Jane Arthur). Afterwards the party "swept majestically to Muffressboro", North Carolina where Lafayette would spend the next night.

Several Suffolk families named babies born in 1824-1825 for the General. Mrs. James Woodward's son was born in October of 1824. He was named Richard Lafayette and that name is still being used in the family today. Mrs. Mills Riddick's son born in 1825 was named Washington Lafayette. What a great name! (Lafayette named a son **George Washington** and a daughter **Virginie**).

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*Postscript: When Lafayette returned to France in September 1825, he carried many gifts but he also carried a trunk filled with American soil. In 1834, our great French hero died. He was buried in Paris but his grave was filled with the soil that he had carried from America.*

The "ghost" of Lafayette has visited Suffolk occasionally during the last several years but this year's visit should be the most splendid yet. This time he comes in the form of Dr. Frank Day of Raleigh, North Carolina, who shares with his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Day, a great interest in the life of Lafayette and the Revolutionary Period. The Days portray Lafayette and his wife during the late eighteenth century and their costumes reflect that period. Actually, Lafayette did not come to Suffolk until the nineteenth century and his wife never came to America. We will assume that the General is wearing the costume from the earlier time to commemorate that period in history when he became one of us. And no doubt, his wife was always with him in spirit.

There will be others in eighteenth century costume as we join the General in remembering the Revolution. Of course, early nineteenth century styles would be quite appropriate as well. If you are lacking such a costume, black tie is always acceptable on such occasions. Whatever you choose to wear, we look forward to celebrating the exciting visit with you.

# THESE ARE THE PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE SOCIETY OVER THE LAST THREE DECADES

A WALK DOWN MAIN STREET, BROCHURE

BIRDS EYE VIEW OF SUFFOLK IN 1907

A RECORD OF FARMS AND THEIR OWNERS IN THE  
LOWER PARISH OF NANSEMOND

DIARY OF SOLOMON AUGUSTUS LENFEST

SUFFOLK NOTECARDS

SUFFOLK SCENES - POSTCARDS

SUFFOLK'S OLD CITY HALL AND MARKET

CITY HALL PRINT

THE QUIET REGIMENT

LAFAYETTE IN SUFFOLK

REPRINTING OF EDWARD POLLOCK's 1886, A SUFFOLK SKETCHBOOK

STORM OVER SUFFOLK BY KERMIT HOBBS

THE LAW: TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF THE PEOPLE WHO INFLUENCED  
SUFFOLK AND NANSEMOND COUNTY



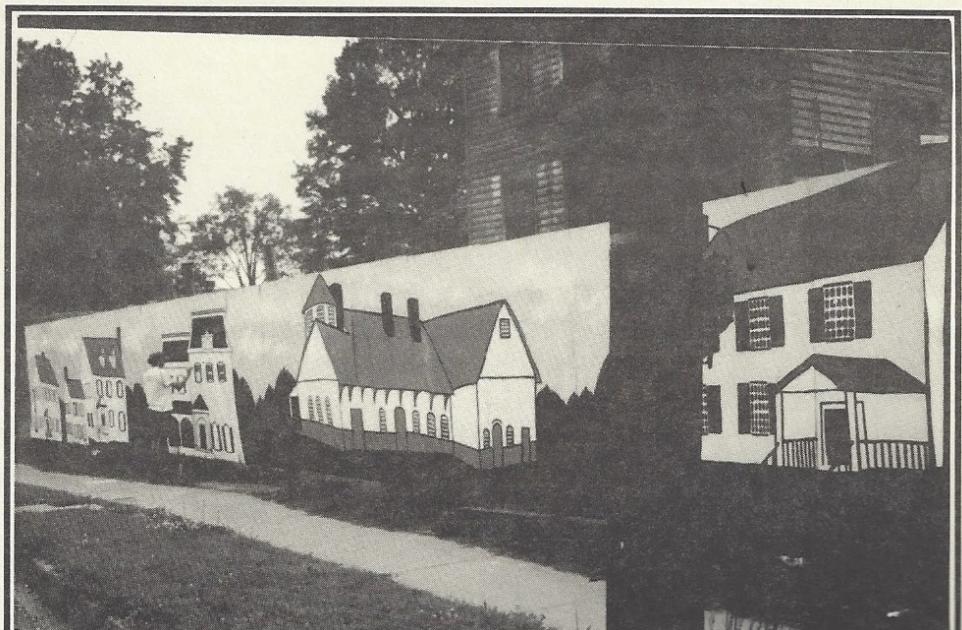
Thanks so much to our historian Marion Watson for her part in making these publications available.

Most of these are for sale at Riddick's Folly. If you live out of town and are interested in one of these, send inquiries to  
SNHS

P.O. Box 1255  
Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255



Karen and Michael Babb as Mayor and Mrs. Benjamin Riddick at our Christmas Tour.



THE WALL. Painted by local artist at the Prentis Hous during Train Day May 13, 1995.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues (Jan.-Dec.)  Individual, \$10.00  Family, \$15.00  
Semi-Ann'l (July -Dec.)  Individual, \$5.00  Family, \$7.50

Please mail with your check to: Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society, P. O. Box 1255 Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255

IF YOUR LABEL HAS A DOT, THEN PERHAPS YOU'VE FORGOT - DUES FOR '96.

# SUFFOLK'S HISTORIC DISTRICT

*The following is from the Historic District Guidelines, a handbook published by the City of Suffolk and used by the Suffolk Historic Landmarks Commission. Please note - the Commission is often confused with SNHS. While some our members have served on the Council appointed commission, we are not connected in any other way. Marion Watson served from the time the Commission was created until a few months ago when she resigned because of poor health.*

## HISTORIC DISTRICT GOALS

**Avoid demolishing buildings that contribute to the historic character of the district whenever possible.** Certain older areas of Suffolk have been designated as a local historic district and much of this district was also listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. Demolition erodes the distinctive character of the district and diminishes the historic value of the city.

**Build on the existing character of the historic district.** Any physical changes should respect and reinforce the existing architectural character of the district. Because the historic buildings in the area are predominantly residential, the design of new construction, whether commercial or residential, should retain more of a residential appearance.

**Improve the maintenance of the district.** Good maintenance of both public and private properties improves the appearance of the district and insures the long term preservation of these unique historic resources of the city.

Use attractive landscaping to strengthen the image of the historic district. Much of the distinctive character of the district comes from the trees, lawns and landscaping the properties. These features need care and attention like buildings.

**Streetscape features should enhance the historic district.** The elements on the street such as utilities, paving and sidewalks should not detract from the historic integrity of the area, nor should these elements become obstacles for pedestrians. They should be appropriately designed for a historic district.

## SUFFOLK NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Suffolk Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1986. It is bounded in general by the Norfolk & Western Railway on the north, Pinner Street on the east, Bank Street on the south and North Saratoga Street on the west. Also included in the district are the two school buildings on Freemason Street.

While this state and federal designation brings no restrictions to properties within it, there are several implications of this listing. Contact the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for further information.

- *Income-producing properties within this district may qualify for federal tax credits as a part of their rehabilitation.*
- *Any adverse impact of a federally funded or licensed project upon the district must be determined and minimized if possible.*
- *The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has state grant programs for threatened properties that can be used in such a district.*

## SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Suffolk Local Historic District includes most of the area included in the Suffolk National Register Historic District. It also includes properties north of the National Register Historic District up to Constance Road, and most of the West Washington Street corridor between Pitchkettle Road and North Street. This entire local historic district includes approximately 215 buildings. In general any changes to the exterior of these buildings are reviewed by the Suffolk Historic Landmarks Commission.

This local historic district is predominantly residential in character although West Washington and North Main streets are zoned for institutional and commercial uses. This zoning has resulted in the conversion of some dwellings for commercial uses as well as the construction of several new commercial buildings.